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Executive Ulman Opens Troy Park at Elkridge, Howard County's Eighth Regional Park

ELLCOTT CITY, MD – Howard County Executive Ken Ulman was joined today by Howard County Council Chairperson Calvin Ball, County Council Vice-Chairperson Courtney Watson and Howard Department of Recreation & Parks Director John Byrd in a ribbon cutting marking the completion of Phase I of Troy Park at Elkridge. Located at 6500 Mansion Lane, adjacent to I-95 and Maryland Route 100, the park will be built in five phases and when completed in fall 2018, will be the largest sports venue in Howard County.

"A huge part of the quality of life in Howard County is our world-class recreation facilities, and none are better than here at Troy Park," said County Executive Ulman. "This is the park that Elkridge and neighboring communities have long deserved, and a true partnership between the community, the county and state leaders have brought it to completion."

Phase I of the park project, which cost \$8 million, included the construction of two lighted synthetic multipurpose fields with press boxes and bleachers seating 330 for each field. Parking areas that include bio-retention islands with trees and plants to filter stormwater were constructed, along with the paved entrance road to the park. A children's playground will open in October. Total cost of the 101-acre park is \$45.8 million.

"Families will be enjoying these fields for decades to come," said County Council Vice-Chairperson Watson. "We listened to the community, and are giving residents what they want."

"Today, we celebrate the Elkridge community and advocates who helped our vision of Troy Park at Elkridge become a reality. This is an excellent recreational and community resource, one our neighbors can be proud of and it would not have been possible without their close collaboration," commented Council Chairperson Ball, whose district encompasses the park.

Additional phases of the project will include: two more lighted synthetic multipurpose fields, one of which will be a stadium field with seating for 1,500 and a lighting system to host televised night games; three lighted synthetic turf baseball fields; pavilions; trails and additional parking. Phase IV, scheduled to begin construction in fall 2015, will include a community center and indoor sports complex. The indoor sports complex will include a six-lane, 200 meter indoor track for high school and college completions, a synthetic turf field and basketball courts.

"We're thrilled to add much-needed recreation space for sports teams and leagues in the county while creating a park that can be enjoyed by all," Department of Recreation & Parks Director Byrd said. "Troy Park at Elkridge was made possible through Program Open Space, which has helped us secure the land on which we've built many parks and facilities in the county. The program has been an incredible asset to our department and the county."

The county will also restore the historic three-story Troy Hill Mansion located on the property. The brick mansion was built around 1820.

The park area has a history that dates back to 1664, when John Dorsey patented 763 acres as part of the Upper Anne Arundel tract and called the property "Troy" after his family's ancestral home in Ireland. In the nearly 400 years since then, the property has been divided up and sold. Howard County purchased 80 of the 101 acres with \$2.1 million in grant funding from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Program Open Space. In 2011, the county began developing plans for the park and on June 22, 2013, officially broke ground on the site.

Troy Park at Elkrige is Howard County's eighth regional park, joining Blandair, Cedar Lane, Centennial, Rockburn Branch, Savage, Schooley Mill and Western Regional.